

## **Historic, archived document**

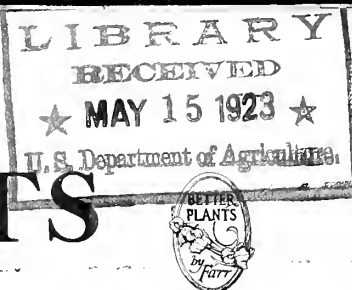
Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





# BETTER PLANTS

*God's first gift to man was a Beautiful Garden*



VOLUME I

MAY, 1923

NUMBER 4

## Snapshots from the Peony Field

### Practical Points Caught by the Pad and Pencil Plan

When a peony lover writes about peonies, the result is usually, in effect, a book, for only a book can do justice to the peony. I am a peony lover and BETTER PLANTS is not a book. Therefore, I am not justified in attempting to present an article on peonies. As I ponder over this dilemma, I decide to present a few high spots and gleanings from twenty years of peony growing. If I attempt to classify or assemble these snapshots and gleanings, my printer will tell me that four pages of paper cannot be stretched, like rubber, to hold sixteen pages of material. It is hard for any flower lover, and particularly a peony lover, to be logical, but logic demands that classification or assembly of my experiences is useless—they are too numerous.

Peonies will soon be in bloom. You will study and enjoy them for yourselves and that will do you and the peonies more good than sixteen pages on peonies presented in BETTER PLANTS.

#### Peonies as an Investment

The self-propagating qualities possessed by peonies, which more than double the number of roots yearly, and the possible resultant profits from the sale of cut-flowers and roots, always reminds me of the notorious "Cat and Rat Ranch." You know. Kill the rats to feed the cats and "vice versa." Removing the furs is the only expense. But it only "reminds" me, for there is profit in peonies.

I know one man in particular whose

original capital and investment was one peony. Peonies have netted him \$100,000 in twenty years. He has handled both roots and cut-flowers. At a recent peony show a physician told me that his profits on peony blooms to date were \$25,000.

I have sold peonies for cut-flowers to hundreds. I have yet to hear of the first failure. Last fall a man arrived at our office in a multi-cylinder car, and ordered three thousand roots of peonies in fifteen varieties. In 1916 this man purchased several hundred dollars worth of peonies from me and last fall told me that peony blooms bought his car and produced a yearly income of four good-sized figures.

I must stop remembering or you will look for the "dotted line (sign here)" associated with fake stock promotions.



June days are all too short when once the lure of the Peony gets into your soul  
Garden of Mrs. A. H. Bailey, Paxtang, Penna.



Mr. A. H. Scott, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, has a rare collection of Farr's Peonies artistically arranged along the walk, against a background of shrubbery

### How Long Does a Peony Live?

Last year a hundred-year-old peony in bloom was observed by myself within fifteen miles from our nurseries.

*Horticulture* publishes the following:

"Many people believe that the oldest peony in the country is to be found on the farm of J. B. Lord, in Parsonfield, near Biddeford, Maine. The original root was taken to that town in 1778 from Methuen, Mass., by Mrs. Judith Moulton, who carried it on horseback. She planted the root in a clearing made by her husband, where a log house was built and, according to the reports of local residents, the plant has blossomed each year ever since."

### Peonies for Health

Elbert Hubbard aptly expressed my own experiences. From a sickly, city-tired man in 1905, I quickly developed into health and content. In 1905 peonies were evolving for me from a few plants into a hobby, and then a business—more and more outdoor work and more and more health. The rate at which so many of my 1906 customers are still buying peonies, indicates health and prosperity for them and good business for me.

God's first gift to man was a beautiful garden, and how many gardeners die young. Is it not significant that it is usually the "old" gardener in stage and fiction?

### Cornell University on Peonies

About twelve years ago Cornell University established a test planting of peonies, consisting of all the available known varieties contributed by the most prominent growers of America and Europe. As a member of the Nomenclature Committee, I spent six successive years in the study of this test planting. The three thousand names were finally sifted down to four hundred distinct varieties.

Cornell University has published a booklet on "The Peony a Flower for the Farmer." Quotations follow:

"The peony is the queen of herbaceous perennial flowers because of its beauty, fragrance, range of color, variety of form, decorative value both as a cut bloom and for garden and landscape planting, and because of its hardiness, comparative ease of culture, and its usual freedom from pests."

"Engrossed in their own labors, with little or no leisure, busy people have no time for such flowers as require special care at certain periods. All such persons will find that for a moderate outlay nothing will give as much joy and satisfaction, or endure so long without special care, as will the peony."

"Every farm and village or country town lot in New York State should have at least a dozen varieties of peonies representing the leading colors from the early to the latest blooming varieties."

### Peonies in Warm Sections

Let the following letters correct many false impressions:

*Cordova, Alabama, May 13, 1918*

All southern agricultural papers claim that peonies cannot be grown successfully in Alabama, but I have shown that they can if certain conditions are met as follows:

1. Plant only large *undivided clumps*. Small plants cannot stand our long, hot summers and hence die before they become acclimated.

2. Select plants and varieties of great vigor. The late varieties of the compact *rose* type open their buds rarely. So the semi-rose or bomb type which blooms early or in midseason is best.

3. They must be protected from the hot afternoon sun and given plenty of water both in early spring and *late summer*. If these rules are followed, blooms from 7 to 9 inches can be produced in great numbers; in fact, the grandest blooms I have ever seen have been produced in my home gardens in Alabama.

I am a peony enthusiast and have some forty varieties and will need at least twelve more this fall and want you to assist me in making a selection.

Sincerely,

POPE M. LONG

*Cordova, Alabama, May 2, 1922*

Our peony season in Alabama is about over and mine have beaten all records. The Kelway varieties (such as I have) seem created for Alabama conditions. I purchased these from you at your suggestion and I shall ever be indebted to you therefor.

Miss Salway produced more perfect blooms than any peony on the place and it closely rivaled in beauty Therese, than which there are no two better peonies. Lady Alexandra Duff was a close third in pinks, but did not produce quite so many flowers as the other two; yet in beauty of bloom it fully equals them. Kelway's Glorious and Baroness Schroeder are in beauty fully as good as Le Cygne and are much better growers and more prolific bloomers. Kelway's Queen, James Kelway and Venus, while wonderfully beautiful, fell just short of the standard of the first named four.

My reds this season did finely. I have always considered Felix Crousse as best and most reliable red for Alabama, but Richard Carvel surpassed it this year, both in number and beauty of flowers. It is also a much better plant. Philippe Rivoire and Mary Brand are indeed fine crimsons, but being much later than Richard Carvel are not as reliable bloomers.



A section of the famous Peony collection at Highland Park, Rochester, N. Y.

My Japs, especially Tora-no-maki and Mikado being so different from the double peonies, attracted more attention than any two peonies in my garden. I want one more red Jap. How does "King of England" compare with Mikado?

Sincerely, POPE M. LONG

P.S. Grandiflora is now blooming. It is my best light pink. I put Walter Faxon, Mme. Jules Dessert and Tourangelle on my list of best varieties this year. Tourangelle is so much more prolific than Mme. Emile Galle that I will discard the latter from my garden and grow more Tourangelles. They are quite similar in color. The Mme. Savreau you sent me last fall bloomed nicely and I am delighted with it.—P. M. L.

### Peonies "Cum Laudo"

The votes of the American Peony Society members have given the different peony varieties remarkably accurate classifications. The World's Best 30 Peonies according to this vote are listed below.

Rating	Variety	Price
99...	Le Cygne.....	\$20 00
98...	Mrs. Edward Harding.....	100 00
98...	Therese.....	7 50
97...	Kelway's Glorious.....	35 00
97...	Thomas C. Thurlow.....	50 00
96...	Solange.....	10 00
96...	Cornelia Shaylor.....	50 00
96...	James R. Mann.....	30 00
94...	Mme. Jules Dessert.....	8 00
93...	Edwin C. Shaw.....	35 00
93...	Tourangelle.....	5 00
93...	Mary Woodbury Shaylor...	40 00
93...	President Wilson.....	50 00
92...	Mrs. C. S. Minot.....(not for sale)	
92...	Festiva maxima.....	75
92...	Walter Faxon.....	7 50
92...	Monsieur Jules Elie.....	1 50
91...	Philippe Rivoire.....	25 00
91...	Grace Loomis.....	25 00
91...	La Fee.....	15 00
91...	Frances Willard.....	5 00
91...	Elizabeth Barrett Browning.	20 00
91...	Nymphæa.....	15 00
91...	Martha Bullock.....	25 00
90...	Lady Alexandra Duff.....	10 00
90...	James Boyd.....	20 00
90...	Secretary Fcwkes.....	20 00
90...	A. P. Saunders.....	20 00
90...	Longfellow.....	10 00
90...	Raoul Dessert.....	15 00

### BETTER PLANTS—by Farr

The title, "Better Plants, by Farr," that I have adopted as my business slogan, may impress some at first as an egotistical assertion. I do not mean it in that sense; rather, it represents an ideal towards which all of us are striving, myself and the faithful associates who have grown and developed with the business here, and who, by their conscientious efforts, have helped me to the success so far achieved. We have always tried to do our best, but it is not enough. We realize that absolute perfection can only be striven for, never fully attained; but we may hope and expect that each year's experience will enable us to excel our best efforts of previous years. Many years of experience have shown the mistakes that have been made and pointed the way to improved methods and service. The term "Better Plants" is very broad in its scope. It means better cultivation, better packing and shipping, better and

more prompt service in the office, and, most important, to select for the inexperienced gardener, out of the hundreds of varieties in the trade, those which will give the most satisfactory results and the ones really worth while.

BERTRAND H. FARR

### Making "Better Plants" Ring True at the Farr Nursery

Space in this month's issue of "Better Plants" does not allow for much more than a brief outline of recent efforts and expenditures towards making the slogan "Better Plants" ring true.

Time, effort and money have been applied unsparingly but carefully as may be gathered from the following outline.

#### 1. Improvements in management:

- (a) Employment of a general manager.
- (b) Monthly employees' meetings.
- (c) A bonus system whereby all employees benefit from reduced cost of replacements and adjustment and therefore strive to satisfy all customers.
- (d) Discarding of hundreds of varieties which cannot stand the test of being the best of their kind, class or color.

#### 2. Improvements in propagating:

- (a) Propagating department.
- (b) The purchase of a tractor for better plowing, cultivation and hauling.
- (c) Additional motor equipment for better transportation.
- (d) Additional horses for more and better cultivation.
- (e) Automatic plant sprinklers for better plants.
- (f) Greenhouse painting and overhauling for better propagating.
- (g) A graphotype machine to make stamped metal labels which are practically indestructible and will help keep plants true to name.

#### 3. Improvements in shipping:

- (a) The use of patented wrapping-papers and elastics for safer and speedier packing.
- (b) Employees meeting for demonstrations in packing. Decisions and instructions as to when to use moss; when excelsior; when to box, to crate, or to bale; when to ship by freight, by express, or by parcel post.
- (c) Installation of an electric power saw to make boxes more rapidly, strongly, and neatly.
- (d) A change in our system of writing labels for more accurate digging and packing of plants.
- (e) A change in the system of keeping our shipping schedules which will automatically execute shipment of an order at the time desired, subject only to interference by sickness, death, or the elements.

#### 4. Office improvements:

- (a) Purchase of a power addressing machine.
- (b) Purchase of an automatic billing machine.
- (c) Purchase of a multigraph.
- (d) Employment of special correspondents.
- (e) Frequent conferences to discuss methods and policies.
- (f) Our 1922 business was double that of five years ago, but our office force is smaller, partly because of improved methods and equipment and partly because no employee has had less than three years of experience in our office.

### OUR AIM

To constantly improve our plants and service, by stintless and endless effort, thought, and investment.



A portion of one of the fields of Peonies at Wyomissing





### HEZA WYZWON

says an early start is a good start. The place for a chicken is on the table.

### MAY GARDEN ACTIVITIES

What is so sweet and clear  
As a prosperous morn in May,  
The confident prime of the day  
And the Dauntless Youth of the Year,  
When nothing that asks for bliss  
Asking aright is denied,  
And half of the world a bridegroom is  
And half of the world a bride?

—WATSON

Look out for the frost that missed the regular train and may just be arriving. A May frost is not very severe nor long enduring, but it does far more damage to the garden than the worst of January blizzards.

All of the summer flowering bulbous plants may be set out now. Prepare the ground for them by using thoroughly rotted manure, or better still, humus, sand, and a little bone dust. The rule is to plant the bulbs twice as deep as their diameter.

Most of the more common annual

flowers may be started out of doors now. Making a seed bed in a sheltered place is much more satisfactory than sowing in the open where the plants are to remain.

A top dressing of nitrate of soda or some other strong fertilizing element used in liquid form just as the buds are beginning to form will push the development of the inactive plants. Also thinning out the plant stalks and removing some of the buds on those remaining will give bigger and better flowers.

Formal evergreens and hedges should be trimmed. Hedge shears are the best tool for this purpose. Larger branches and tips can be easily removed with pruning shears.

Do not allow the grass to grow away from you. Start cutting it now before it grows so long that raking will be necessary. In raking the grass before the ground has thoroughly dried, there is always the possibility of pulling up large clumps of sod. Good lawns are the result of the utmost care in using liberal fertilization, mowing, trimming, sprinkling and rolling.

Give a thought to keeping the entire garden neat. Cut out the dead wood in the shrubs and hedges, dig out the weeds from the paths and drives, cut away the surplus and dead shoots of all the flower stalks and support the larger ones with individual stakes.

This is the popular dahlia planting month, although many planters delay till the end of June. Make deep holes for them, but *don't make the soil too rich*. In planting them allow for the filling in and settling of the soil as they grow.

Look on the twigs of young fruit trees for wounds made by egg laying locusts (cicadas). Prune off and burn the injured twigs, thereby lessening the numbers of insects which will be due in later years.

Tie up the grape vines as fast as they grow. This will make the job of straightening out the growth without damage less difficult, later on.

Holland bulbs may be taken up as soon as the foliage can be twisted around the finger without breaking. Of course, if the space is not needed, do not disturb them at all.

Do your garden shopping while the plants are in action. This is the period for peony, iris and Holland bulb observations and ordering. Your orders can never be placed too early, but frequently too late. Any reliable nursery will ship to you on approval if you give bank or business references. The Farr Nursery Company will be pleased to serve you. Place your orders now for shipment at the proper planting time.

Fall blooming plants are still being ordered and planted for this year's garden, but should have conscientious watering attention during the summer.

### PEONIES, IRISES AT \$100 EACH

Is \$100 too much for a new iris or a new peony?

We cannot decide this question.

\$100 is not too much to repay the originator for developing a really good and a really new iris or peony.

Practically all the new varieties are the products of persons who devote their lives to such work. If there were no genuine plant-lovers there would be very few new varieties.

A successful creation may be obtained from a few chance seedlings, but little is heard of such varieties.

The annual interest on the value of the ground used for the trial-beds and blocks alone usually amounts to more than the price set on the few, if any, new varieties selected from thousands of seedlings.

Add to this the cost of maintenance, associated with the four- to eight-year period required to develop an iris or peony introduction from seed to flower and also add the cost of selling such varieties.

The introducer's only chance to profit financially lies in the possibility of propagating a quantity of the new variety—another period of years—and finding a market for it.

Is \$100 too much to *receive* for a new iris or a new peony?

Is \$100 too much to *pay*?

Your opinion would be appreciated.

### DON'TS WITH PEONIES

Do not plant in the spring if you can avoid it.

Do not plant the crown any deeper than 3 inches.

Do not crowd the plants. Allow a distance of 3 feet or you will retard proper development.

Do not allow dampness to remain at the roots through lack of proper drainage.

Do not make soil so poverty-stricken that it will dry out with the first gleam of sunshine.

Do not disturb them.

Do not cut away foliage after blooming, as the leaves are their lungs.

Do not leave foliage on during winter, as it harbors disease. Cut off all and burn it.

Do not worry over ants on the buds, as they are harmless.

Do not buy on eye basis.



Peony, Felix Crousse. One of the finest brilliant reds



Of all the Tulips found in commerce today, the Darwins, with their deep cups, seem to be most popular

## HOLLAND BULBS

### Blooming Time Is Planning Time

An office version, justified by the requests and inquiries received on this subject.

Holland bulbs represent the cheapest hardy plant in commerce; and yet their beauty ranks with the best.

Holland bulbs are all so hardy, easily grown and low priced that even the very smallest garden should not be without them. An otherwise dull looking perennial garden in early spring can be made to look like mother's new spring hat if bulbs are freely used. There is plenty of room to place them between perennials. They will be through blooming and can be lifted and stored before the perennial growth will interfere. They enliven and round out an otherwise meager blooming period.

Few plants have the color range of Holland bulbs. Do you know of any plant that blooms in blue, brown, yellow, white, lavender and red outside of the hyacinths and tulips? They are very few.

### Daffodils and Narcissi

We are often asked to distinguish between the terms daffodil and narcissus. There is no actual distinction beyond common usage. This common usage has classified daffodils to be the yellow and trumpet-shaped species and varieties; narcissus those with various colored eyes, and small, if any, trumpets. The genus has been so much interested that it is impossible to tell which are natural species and which are not. A recognized classification provides for ten sections.

Daffodils or narcissi thrive almost everywhere. They dislike fertilization outside of a sprinkling of bone meal after

planting. Plant to a depth of about three times the diameter of the bulb. This applies to the other varieties of Holland bulbs.

Use daffodils or narcissi for accent, borders, naturalizing or indoor forcing. The main rule for forcing is to generate sufficient root growth in a dark cool place before bringing the pots into light and heat. A few Poeticus narcissi will, in a few years, multiply into a host if allowed to naturalize. Other varieties will endure for years.

On no account should the foliage be cut. This also applies to other bulbs. If removal is desired in favor of other plants, wait until the foliage has turned yellow and then take up and cure the bulbs in a dry shady place for several days. Store until fall in a cool dark room. Do not crowd the bulbs into containers.

### Tulips

The tulip is native to Turkey and was introduced into Holland during the 16th century. Naturally favorable conditions; generations of experience and centuries of soil culture have made Holland the center of the world's bulb industry.

Tulips bloom in all colors. In fact no commercially handled flower outside of iris can boast of a wider range. The blooming period embraces from two to three weeks. The sections are early and late. The earliest include singles and doubles. The late-flowering sections are fast becoming the most popular, largely because of the longer stems associated with the Darwin types.

The bloom, as in all bulbs, is conspicuously stored in the heart of the bulb. After insertion of the bulb into the soil to three times the diameter, only a flagrant

gardening error can prevent continuance of spring bloom for many years. There is no secret or difficulty whatever to successful bulb planting.

### Hyacinths

Everyone knows and loves hyacinths. Their culture is similar to that of other bulbs. They appreciate sand and well rotted manure or a handful of bone meal mixed with the soil at the bottom. Press the soil firmly after planting. Avoid a location that will be under water during the winter. (True of all bulbs.) A hyacinth bulb lasts longer than one season, but seed must not be allowed to develop.

### Crocuses

Crocuses can be seen in bloom almost before the snow has disappeared. Use them anywhere and everywhere, for their early bloom never interferes with other varieties. A favorite custom is to sprinkle handfuls over the lawn and dibble them to a 4 inch depth where they fall. They will last for years if the grass is not cut before the foliage dies down. The only reason for crocus failures is shallow planting.

### Jonquils

Jonquils are really a subdivision of narcissus. They are all cluster flowered, deep yellow in color, deliciously fragrant and possess round rush-like foliage. Jonquils are sold mostly to gardeners who are familiar with them, and once introduced few gardens are allowed to be without them. They are splendid for naturalizing.

### Mulching

Many American gardens would be benefited by a lack of bulb mulching. Too many gardeners apply the mulch of leaves, straw, etc., too early in fall and remove it too early in spring. The first error encourages the bulbs to sprout in fall with resultant disaster when freezing weather arrives. Do not mulch any plants until the ground is permanently frozen. Late spring frosts will certainly catch the early exposed bulbs.

The purpose of mulching is to counteract alternate freezing and thawing in spring. The later mulch is applied, the better. Remove it only when spring is here to stay.

### WHEN MISTRESS SPRING COMES TO YOUR GARDEN

Her path should be lined with Daffodils and Tulips—those colorful blooms of May and June. For the gardener who wants an extra choice assortment of spring flowers I recommend

#### The Sunrise Collection No. 2

25 Narcissi, assorted varieties.....	\$2 75
75 Single Tulips, assorted.....	2 50
75 Darwin Tulips, assorted.....	2 50
75 Breeder Tulips.....	2 50
25 Hyacinths, assorted.....	3 50

Any one collection at the price indicated.

#### The Complete Sunrise Collection No. 2 275 Bulbs, for only \$12

Send your order now—you need not pay for them until you receive them next fall.

### BEST PEONIES FOR LANDSCAPE DISPLAY AND CUT FLOWERS

Rating	Early WHITE	Price
7.1	Candidissima.....	\$0 50
9.3	Festiva maxima.....	75
8.7	James Kelway.....	2 00
8.0	Boule de Neige.....	75

FLESH AND LIGHT PINK	
6.4	Dr. Bretonneau (V.)..... 50
6.5	Mme. Coste..... 50
7.9	Simonne Chevalier..... 2 00

DARK PINK	
7.6	Edulis superba..... 60
7.7	Daybreak..... 2 00
9.2	Monsieur Jules Elie..... 1 50

RED	
7.6	Lord Kitchener..... 3 50
8.8	Richard Carvl..... 5 00
7.3	Francois Rousseau..... 4 00

Midseason WHITE	
7.9	Mme. de Verneville..... 75
8.1	Duchesse de Nemours..... 75
8.1	Mme. Calot..... 75
8.9	Mme. Emile Lemoine..... 1 50
8.6	Primevere..... 5 00
9.0	Baroness Schroeder..... 1 50
9.1	Lady Alexandra Duff..... 10 00

FLESH AND LIGHT PINK	
8.6	Eugenie Verdier..... 1 50
7.3	Duke of Clarence..... 75
8.5	La Perle..... 2 00
8.5	Germaine Bigot..... 2 00
6.7	Arsene Meuret..... 50
7.7	Enchantment..... 1 50
8.3	Venus..... 2 00

DARK PINK	
8.3	Lamartine (Cal.)..... 1 50
7.3	Elie Chevalier..... 2 50
7.6	John Hancock..... 1 50
7.2	Paul Fischer..... 3 00
8.1	John Richardson..... 3 50

RED	
6.4	Souv. de l'Exp. d'Bordeaux..... 1 00
8.4	Felix Crousse..... 1 00
7.4	Edwin Forest..... 2 50
7.4	Admiral Togo..... 1 50
6.9	Armandine Mechin..... 1 00

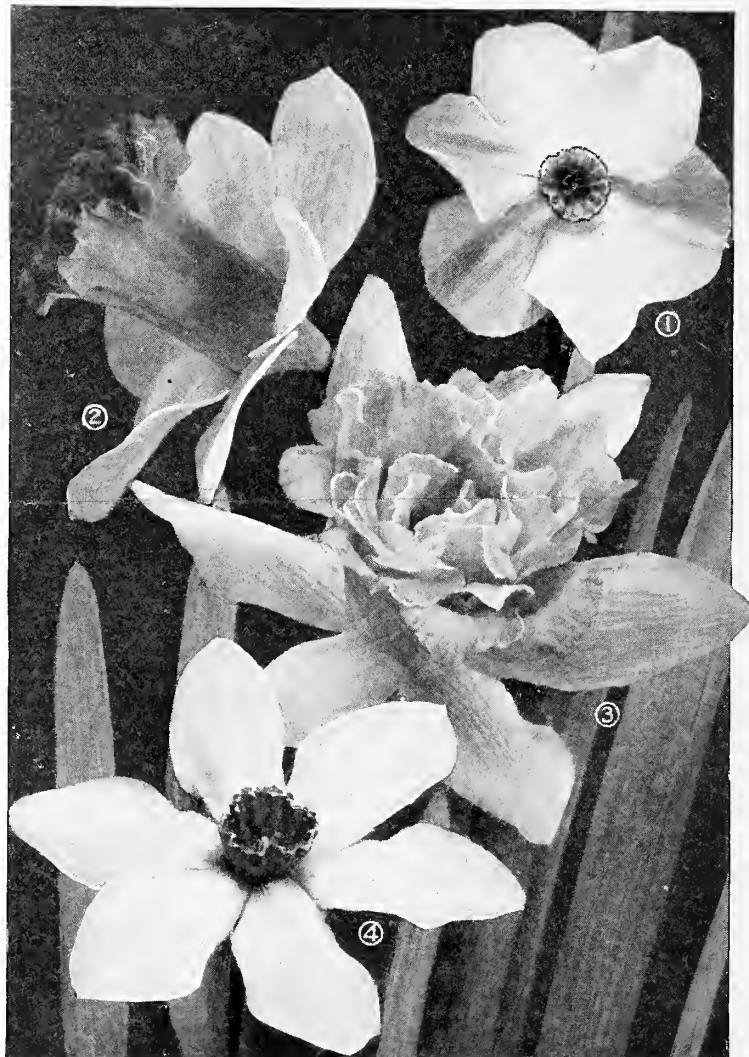
Late WHITE	
8.1	Couronne d'Or..... 1 00
8.2	Marcelle Dessert..... 4 00
8.0	Aurore..... 2 00
7.8	Duc de Wellington..... 75
8.5	Marie Lemoine..... 1 00

FLESH AND LIGHT PINK	
8.6	Albert Crousse..... 1 50
8.5	Mme. Emile Galle..... 1 00
8.4	Marguerite Gerard..... 1 50
8.8	Grandiflora..... 2 00
9.0	La France..... 10 00

DARK PINK	
8.1	Livingstone..... 1 50
9.0	Milton Hill..... 3 00
8.5	Maud L. Richardson..... 4 00
6.5	Gloire de Chenonceaux..... 1 00

RED	
8.3	Eugene Bigot..... 2 50
6.9	La Fontaine (Des.)..... 2 00
7.8	Gloire de Touraine..... 3 00

The above selection includes only moderate priced peonies in strong stemmed, free blooming and proved varieties. Dozen and hundred rates upon request.



Types of Narcissi. Varieties similar to No. 2 are commonly known as Daffodils.  
(1) Poeticus ornatus (2) Victoria, (3) Von Sion, (4) Barrii conspicuus

### DISCOUNT ON HOLLAND BULBS

To encourage early ordering and thus be enabled to import more intelligently and economically—

A special discount of 10 per cent will be applied to all Holland bulb orders received before July 15th. An additional 2 per cent will be allowed on orders accompanied by cash. **These Discounts do not apply to Collection Offers.**

**GUARANTEE.** All shipments are guaranteed to reach customers in a satisfactory condition and to be true to name. I assume all the risk of transportation. No substitutions are made unless requested. In short, I know that our success depends upon the satisfaction given our customers and our guarantee covers satisfaction to any reasonable extent.

On the customer's part it is necessary

- To order early.
- To report arrival in doubtful condition within three days after receipt of the order.
- To accept damaged shipments but to have carrier's agent note its condition.
- To settle the account within 30 days after date of shipment.

If you are one of our customers you may place your order with us on account. We will ship to you on approval. If you are satisfied with the goods when you receive them, you pay us. If not, return the shipment collect and we will refund transportation charges paid at your end.

### COME TO WYOMISSING

We take pleasure in inviting you to see our wonderful collection of American and European peonies which will be blooming at their best around Memorial Day. Write us if you are interested and we will notify you later as to the specific blooming period.

If you are too far away to visit Wyomissing, you will find other famous peony gardens at Highland Park, Rochester, N.Y.; Arlington Experimental Gardens, Arlington Farms, Washington, D.C.; Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.; E. C. Shaw, Akron, Ohio; Francis Pastorius, Colorado Springs, Colo.; Pope M. Long, Birmingham, Ala.; Carl Purdy, Ukiah, Calif.; Harry A. Norton, Ayer's Cliff, Quebec, Canada.

### PLANTS TO BE NAMED

At this season many plants and blooms are sent to us for identification. All correspondence should be placed in an envelope and pasted to the outside of the package containing the specimen, otherwise it will be difficult, and sometimes impossible, for us to reply intelligently.



## A FINE MOCK ORANGE

To those who know only the common form of the Mock Orange, *Philadelphus Virginal* is a revelation. This is the largest flowered of its race. The blossoms are semi-double, nearly three inches across, and a cold, snowy white. In the purity of their whiteness and the compactness of their form, they might be likened to a double white Camellia, and the large, unusually deep green foliage tends to increase that similarity. The characteristic fragrance of the Mock Orange is, however, almost absent in *P. Virginal*—an omission for which some may have cause to be thankful. This plant will succeed in any average soil, and is generally deemed a hardy, easy-tempered shrub that most people can plant with every confidence of success.—*The Garden*.

## "THAT'S PEONIES"

(By courtesy of Henry S. Cooper, peony-fan and grower, of Kenosha, Wisconsin, I quote from his remarkable summarization on peonies.)

You want the easiest flowers to raise—that's peonies.

You want the loveliest flowers that grow—that's peonies.

You want the flowers for which you do not have to spade up the ground and plant seeds every spring—that's peonies.

You want the hardest flowers that grow—that's peonies.

You want the flowers that neglect won't kill—that's peonies.

## BETTER BULBS—by Farr

My 1923 Bulb Catalogue will be sent without further notice to our former bulb customers. To others, copies are free for the asking. If you have not ordered bulbs from us before, mail the enclosed card today.

## Farr Better Labels in Your Garden

Make it Easy and Pleasant for You and Your Friends to Know Your Floral Favorites by Name

These labels were exhibited by a Canadian flower lover and inventor at the 1922 Show of the American Peony Society held in London, Ontario. Their novelty and usefulness attracted my attention and I was soon convinced that they would fill a long felt desire on my part, and no doubt give equal satisfaction to all garden lovers.

I at once obtained the American agency for these labels and have spent considerable time and money in working with the inventor to perfect the labels in every detail so that they will give the highest type of service in the garden.

## Farr Better Labels

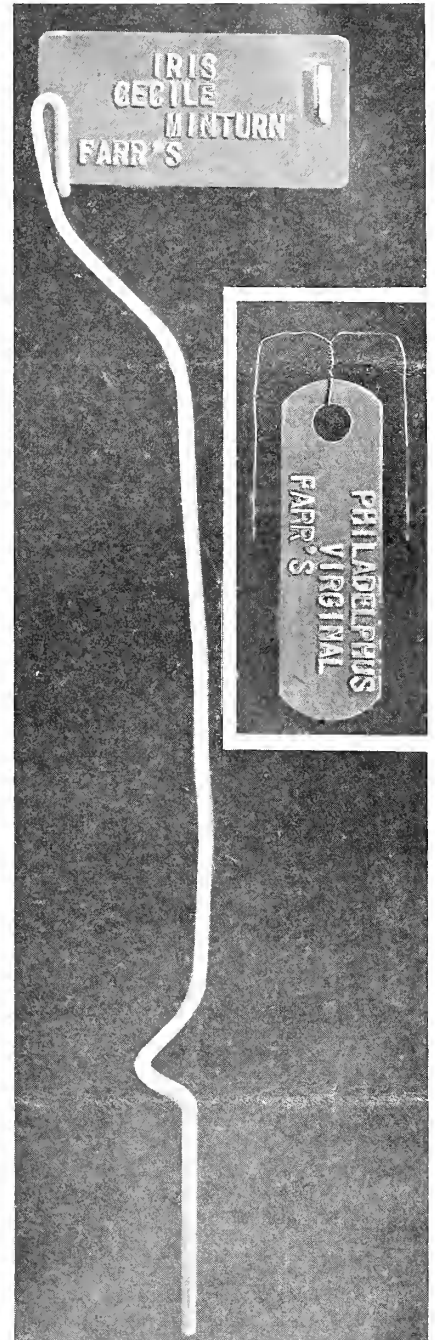
are made of aluminum, with the name of the plant permanently stamped on the label. The rod is Number 9 gauge galvanized wire. The little "kink" in the rod prevents turning when pushed in the soil. The upper portion of the rod is bent at an angle of about 45 degrees, thus permitting the label to be easily read. These labels will give a correct check on varieties and help you to keep accurate garden records.

**Single stamped Label**, one inch wide, with copper wire, is provided for trees and shrubs at these prices:

	Each
Less than 5 labels.....	\$0 12
5 to 24 labels.....	10
25 to 99 labels.....	8
100 labels or more.....	06

**Small labels**, two inches wide, with wire standard 1 foot long

	Each
Less than 5 labels.....	\$0 30
5 to 24 labels.....	25
25 to 99 labels.....	20
100 labels or more.....	18



Of all the flowering shrubs *Philadelphus Virginal* comes close to holding first place. This picture conveys only a suggestion of the lovely flowers

**Medium sized labels**, two inches wide, with 2-foot wire standard

	Each
Less than 5 labels.....	\$0 35
5 to 24 labels.....	30
25 to 99 labels.....	25
100 labels or more.....	22

These prices include proper stamping of variety name. Send us the names of your garden pets—we can make up the labels quickly and forward them so that they will be ready in advance of the blooming season.



## BETTER PLANTS



### THE HYACINTH

Would you ask a fair maiden to dance, present her with a white hyacinth, which asks charmingly, "Will you dance with me?" A purple hyacinth will say for you, "I am sorry."

The old Greeks used hyacinths for bridal wreaths and the bride's attendants wore crowns made of that flower. Strangely, the hyacinth is also associated with death. The odor was once believed to be dangerous when inhaled in large quantities. The story runs that in France a murder was committed by filling the victim's bedroom with hyacinths while he was sleeping.

The hyacinth was named after a Laconian youth, Hyacinthus, to whom Apollo, the god of music, was very devoted. One day the two friends were throwing quoits. Suddenly a discus which Apollo had pitched with great force swerved and struck Hyacinthus on the forehead,

killing him instantly. Apollo was heart-broken and wept bitterly. "Oh, that I could die for you," he exclaimed, "but since that cannot be, my lyre shall keep your memory alive." When he had ended, a lovely flower with delicate purple bells had sprung up where Hyacinthus' blood had spotted the ground.

### MISTAKES AND TROUBLES

Upon the door of the Farr Nursery time clock is affixed the following:

"Look for More Troubles."

"Ever stop to be thankful for the troubles of your job?"

"When you get the right slant on troubles, you discover that they are rather useful after all. They pay about half of your salary."

"It is this way—whether you are the buyer or the errand boy or the manager, whether you sell or ship, or keep books, someone could be found to handle your job for about half of what you get, if it were not for the troubles—the things that go wrong, the people who treat you contemptibly, the difficulties that have to be met and overcome."

"It takes intelligence, patience, tact, and courage to meet the troubles of any job. That is why you hold your present job and it may be the reason why you don't hold a bigger one."

"Who knows, perhaps, if you went looking for more troubles and instead of trying to duck them, you might very soon find yourself getting twice as large a salary as you do now, for it is a fact, you know, that there are plenty of bigger jobs waiting for folks who are not afraid of the troubles connected with them."

Our employees are only human. They have their troubles, and make mistakes.

Our mistakes are usually costly to us and annoying to our customers. We cannot rectify the annoyance but we do rectify the cost. Tell us your troubles.

### OWNING IRIS AND PEONIES BY THE THOUSAND

Picture a thousand plants of irises or peonies blooming in a garden, an estate, a field or a meadow. Perhaps you think the cost of owning such a collection is out of proportion to the benefit derived. Look at these prices; if you have the planting space your pride of ownership and shrewd buying instinct will urge you to buy—now.

We will furnish a complete range of color, our selection of varieties, at the following prices.

	Peonies	Irises
1,000 in 10 varieties....	\$150 00	\$75 00
1,000 in 20 varieties....	175 00	87 50
1,000 in 40 varieties....	200 00	100 00
1,000 in 100 varieties....	225 00	112 50
100 in 10 varieties.....	25 00	12 50
100 in 20 varieties.....	35 00	17 50
100 in 50 varieties.....	45 00	22 50

These prices are possible only when the selection is left to us. Prices in miscellaneous quantities on request. We guarantee that the general landscape and blooming effect will be equal to that of the highest priced peonies and irises.

### NIAGARA HAND-DUST GUN

The Niagara Hand-Dust Gun is a "machine gun" for plant enemies. Three to six times as fast as spraying. More economical in use and result.



For all garden vines, shrubbery and perennials. Price \$4, including 1 pound of All-In-One Dust and a copy of "Instructions for Exterminating Garden Pests" (40 page book).

All-In-One Dust is effective for scales, sucking insects, mildew, blight and chewing insects.

Sounds like a "cure all" but money back if unsatisfactory at any time.

**Bertrand H. Farr—Wyomissing Nurseries Company**  
1250 Garfield Avenue, Wyomissing, Penna.

## BETTER PLANTS

Because of the gratifying reception given the first three issues of BETTER PLANTS, it has been thought wise to double the size of the May number. Moreover, it has hardly seemed possible to do justice to Pconies and Dutch Bulbs in four pages, which is a second reason for increasing the size of the present issue. The enlarged form is not likely to be permanent, but our decision on this point will be influenced largely by the reception accorded the May number.

*A copy of BETTER PLANTS cannot be bought.* There is no subscription price; copies are mailed free of charge to our customers and friends.

*Customers* are booked for a twelve months' subscription after each shipping season.

*Friends* and *prospects* receive at least three successive issues, and upon request are retained on our mailing list indefinitely.

If you enjoy BETTER PLANTS (we try hard to make it enjoyable) tell us to place your name on our "one year subscription list" with no obligation to you. Use the card enclosed for your convenience.

Return Postage Guaranteed by  
Farr Nurseries Co., Wyomissing, Pa.

1c. PAID

Wyomissing, Penna.

Permit No. 1

L C Corbett  
Bureau of Plant Industry  
U S Dept of Agriculture  
Washington D C

BETTER PLANTS—MAY, 1923  
A Magazine Devoted to the Hardy Garden